

Board Highlights: October 31-November 1, 2023

2024 Ontario Pork's Elections

The Board of Directors continued its work on the implementation of the new Ontario Pork election structure. Updated [Ontario Regulation 403/10: HOGS – PLAN](#) came into force on September 29, 2023. Elections for delegate and Board member positions will be conducted in January-February 2024 in all five zones. Additionally, three at-large Board positions, representing pork producers within the province, will be subject to election at the Ontario Pork annual general meeting on March 19-20, 2024. The Board has also approved revisions to the election handbook and Ontario Pork's by-law #2 to align with the new regulation. Ontario Pork will be holding a meeting for presidents and secretaries of local pork producers' associations to discuss the election process in more detail. More information will be circulated to pork producers ahead of the 2024 election cycle.

Canadian Pork Council

John de Bruyn, Board Chair and Tara Terpstra, Vice-Chair, attended the National Lobby Day and the CPC Fall Member Meeting held on October 24-25 in Ottawa. This year, seven Ontario's pork producers participated in the National Lobby Day and met with several MPs and senators to discuss key issues such as carbon tax, African swine fever, research, and trade. James Reesor and Eric Schwindt, Ontario Pork's representatives on the Canadian Pork Council (CPC) Board of Directors briefed the Board on the recent CPC Board meeting held on October 25-26, 2023. The CPC Board of Directors approved the organization's strategic plan; other discussion topics included governance, environment, Pig Trace, Pig Code review, and business risk management.

Federal Funding for ASF Industry Preparedness

The African Swine Fever Industry Preparedness (ASFIP) Program Parameters were released by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada last year. The Board of Directors received an update from staff on the projects submitted to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada by Ontario Pork and other pork provincial organizations across Canada. The scope of these projects includes such areas as wild pigs, producer communications, emergency planning and provincial coordination. A working group of the Ontario Swine Incident Command Centre (OSICC), created by Ontario Pork and its partners to improve the industry's capacity to respond to disease challenges, currently in the process of submitting additional applications to Agriculture & Agri Food Canada.

Carbon Tax Removal for Agriculture

The Board of Directors supported the Government of Ontario in requesting that the Government of Canada take immediate steps to eliminate the carbon tax on natural gas and propane used for agricultural purposes. Ontario Pork has long advocated for on-farm fuels used in agricultural production to be exempt from carbon tax policies. Given that there are currently no replacements for fossil fuels in agricultural production, it has amounted to an unfair cost burden to farmers. John de Bruyn, Chair sent [an open letter](#) on behalf of the Board to support the motion put forward by MPP Matthew Rae that requests that the Government of Canada take immediate steps to eliminate the carbon tax on natural gas and propane used for agricultural purposes.